THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The use of Baralgan is under clinical trial at All India Institute of Medical Sciences to establish its effetiveness. Periactin which is a brand of Cyproheptadine is an appetite stimulant and has not been banned in any developed country. Verdivition is a preparation of Glycerophosphates, the use of which is liquid formulations is banned in the country.

(c) and (d) This Ministry has introduced a National Eassential Drug list for safe rational drug use in the country. Workshops are organised by Indian Medical Association from time-to-time to promote the concept of rational therapeutics to its members.

Central Government's Assistance for States in Setting up Medical Funds for the Poor

3633. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the States to set up medical funds for poor, suffering from serious ailments;

(b) if so, whether Central Government have announced that they will help in increasing these funds;

(c) if so, whether Central Government have released rupees 30 crore funds to help the States; and

(d) the details of the amount to be given to each State;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) to (d) The details of the Scheme are being worked out with a view to assit the State Governments in setting up medical relief funds for providing specialised treatment to the poor patients below the povery line. On finalisation of the scheme, the funds would be released.

Disputes Between Insurance Companies and Consumers

3634. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last few years there has been an increase in the number of disputes between insurance companies and consumer;

(b) whether it is also a fact that mediclaim policy, in particular has not been able to meet consumer expectations;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the functioning of insurance sector in its entirety; and

(d) in view of increasing number of complaints whether Government will make it mandatory for every insurance company to have an impartial and independent review committee to look into the complaints in the quickest possible time?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No. Sir.

(b) For further popularising the mediclaim policy, the maximum limit of compensation for hospitalisation has been enhanced from Rs 83.000/- to Rs. 3,00,000/- per person. Further, a new low cost policy known as 'Jan Arogya' has recently been introduced.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) GIC and its subsidiaries have already set-up Grievance Redressal Machinery, which looks into complaints made by insureds and helps in expeditious disposal of claims.

EC's directives for completing the process of organisational elections by political parties

3635. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has issued directives to all the political